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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

GRUNDFEST et al.

Art Unit: 3621

Application No.: 09/718,097

Examiner: F. Backer

Filed: November 22, 2000

Attorney Dkt. No.: 026732-00011

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING TRANSACTION PROCESSING
AND DISPOSITION WITHIN AN ACCESS CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT VIA
A GLOBAL NETWORK SUCH AS THE INTERNET

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.121

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 17, 2006

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated **July 17, 2006**, the Applicants hereby **traverse** the Election/Restriction Requirement on the grounds that **(1) it is improper, and (2) examination of all claims presents no undue burden on the Examiner.** Specifically, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims **1-27, 51, 70, 92 and 116** are pending in this application and not, as the Office Action indicates, claims 1-136. Claims 28-50, 52-69, 71- 91, 93-115 and 117-136 were canceled by the Applicants' Response of September 28, 2005. Thus, the Applicants submit that the requirement in the Office Action that Applicants elect one of Invention I (claims 1-115) and Invention II (claims 116-136) is improper, as many of these claims are no longer pending in this application.

The Applicants provisionally elect, **with traverse**, Claims 1-27, 51, 70, 92 and newly added by this Amendment claim 137 of Group I, all directed to a method for billing and authentication. The Applicants submit that newly added claim 137, which depends

from claim 70, is directed to the invention of Group I, *i.e.*, to a method for billing and authentication, as defined in the Office Action. Provisionally elected Group I thus includes claims 1-27, 51, 70, 92 and 137, all of which are pending and subject to examination.

The Applicants also respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the following:

Amendments to the claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 15 of this paper.